

SIKKIM



GOVERNMENT

GAZETTE

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**DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION & PUBLIC RELATIONS
GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM
SOOCHNA BHAWAN, TADONG, GANGTOK**

No. 10/IPR/21-22

Dated:- 25.01.2022

NOTIFICATION

SIKKIM FILM POLICY, 2022

INTRODUCTION:

Sikkim, the 22nd State of the Indian Union is home to the third highest mountain peak in the world, Mt. Khangchendzonga and also houses the country's first UNESCO Mixed World Heritage Site, the Khangchendzonga National Park. The State is blessed with an abundance of natural wealth, diverse culture, rich tradition and a riveting history. It is a picturesque paradise as well as a spiritual haven. The State is a hotspot for tourists and the popularity of the region can be comprehended by the number of visitors that throng the state all year round.

DEFINITIONS

In this policy, unless the content otherwise required;

- (a) Board means the Sikkim Film Promotion Board;
- (b) DIPR means Department of Information and Public Relations;
- (c) Government means the Government of Sikkim.
- (d) Words and expressions used but not defined in this policy but defined in the Cinematograph Act, 1952 shall have the same meanings respectively assigned to them in that Act.

General Information

| | |
|---------------------|----------------|
| Area: | 7,096 Sq. Kms. |
| District: | 6 |
| Sub-Division: | 16 |
| Total Forest Cover: | 47.34% |
| State Animal: | Red Panda |

| | |
|------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| State Bird: | Blood Pheasant |
| State Flower: | Dendrobium Nobile (Nobile Orchid) |
| State Tree: | Rhododendron Niveum |
| Population: | 610577 (Total) |
| Census 2011: | 323070 (Male), 287507 (Female) |
| Density of Population: | 86 (Person per Sq. Km.) |
| Literacy Rate: | 81.4% |

Climate

Sikkim's climate ranges from sub-tropical in the south to tundra in the north. Most of the inhabited regions of Sikkim experience a temperate climate, with temperatures seldom exceeding 28°C (82°F) in summer. An average annual temperature for most of Sikkim is around 18°C (64°F). Monsoon months in Sikkim are from May till September. The rainy season is classified into two types in Sikkim i.e., summer rains and winter rains. The southern part of Sikkim sees more of summer rains, whereas northern part foresees winter rains during August and September. The best time to visit Sikkim is either between March and May or October and mid-December. If you want to witness the blooming natural beauty in Gangtok the best season to visit would be in spring from March to May. Autumn, on the other hand, brings a clear view of the Himalayan Range.

Average Sunrise: 6:19 am

Average Sunset: 17:55 pm

How to reach

By Air:

Pakyong Airport is a Greenfield RCS airport near Gangtok, the state capital of Sikkim, India. The airport, spread over 201 acres (81 ha), is located at Pakyong town about 31km (45 min) south of Gangtok. At 4646 ft, it is one of the five highest airports in India.

The second closest airport to Sikkim is Bagdogra Airport located in West Bengal and it is about 124 Kms away from Gangtok. From here, shared or private taxis are easily available.

Sikkim Helicopter Services are also available for on and on services from Gangtok to Bagdogra Airport.

By Road:

The roads to Sikkim are picturesque and soothing. As you ascend, you will encounter winding roads with the sparkling Teesta River on one side and picture-perfect mountains on the other. Sikkim has a good state bus service along with private bus service. One can also hire taxis for local commutation and can even find shared cabs as well. Sikkim's capital, Gangtok is well connected with Bagdogra, New Jalpaiguri as well as Guwahati by road.

By Rail:

The nearest railway station to Sikkim is New Jalpaiguri Railway Station, West Bengal. This station is located about 125 kilometres from Gangtok.

PRESENCE OF THE FILM SECTOR IN SIKKIM

- The State has its own brief history of cinema. It dates back to the Kingdom of Sikkim when Satyajit Ray, widely regarded as one of the greatest filmmakers had made a documentary titled “Sikkim” in 1971, showcasing the socio-cultural front of the Himalayan kingdom under the Monarchy. It can be said that his work on Sikkim laid the first foundation for a new breed of digital quest and aspiring filmmakers.
- Actors like Danny Denzongpa and Geetanjali Thapa have not only brought pride and fame to the state but have strengthened the bond with the film industry and become idols for others with similar passion and dreams.
- Over the years, Sikkim has served as a perfect backdrop for movies and filmmakers have used this to their advantage. Classic movies like the Dev Anand starrer, Jewel Thief and modern movies like Uff Yeh Mohabbat, Yaariyan, Qarib Qarib Single have all been shot around Sikkim's picturesque valleys, towns and landscape.

INSIGHTS

Cinema is a strong medium of entertainment. It serves as an effective voice for socio-political commentary and in creating cultural renaissance through time. Cinema has the power to transform and transcend a society, taking it to greater heights and beyond borders, making possible business and bonds across geographies and culture.

Keeping the narrative of a promising film sector in Sikkim and the aspirations and ambitions around this industry, the Government of Sikkim felt it necessary to come up with a policy that would not only develop Sikkim as a film making destination but also foster the upliftment of local performing artistes, filmmakers, entertainment business professionals and create a self-sufficient and world class film industry in Sikkim.

Therefore, the Sikkim Film Policy has been framed and implemented.

VISION AND OBJECTIVES

- Development of Sikkimese Cinema and creation of conducive ecosystem for making Sikkim a favoured destination for film makers, thereby, generating capital investment.
- Develop the profession of film making and production as entrepreneurial ventures from where people can earn their livelihood.
- Create a brand identity of the state as a film-compatible, corporate and investment worthy state.
- Disseminate information about the state's unexplored locations for film makers thereby initiating and developing Cinematic Tourism.
- Publicize and promote the cultural, mythological, historical heritage and traditions of the state including its folk music, traditional attire and cuisine.
- Creation and development of a skilled resource pool is core towards ensuring success in any mission we initiate. Since the film industry in Sikkim is at its budding stage, it is important that we focus on building a strong workforce. This will include Production Management, Technical, Special Production Support and Legal Support etc. Creating a training structure in the field of film making for both feature and non-feature films. Undertaking Skill Development programmes in collaboration with relevant departments in the area of filming for employability, with special emphasis on gender mainstreaming.

- Development of an attitude of film friendliness and ease of business through single window clearances.
- Development and promotion of local and regional films and cinema which is gaining acceptance and growing in popularity.
- Development of film cultured audiences and support outreach of this medium to remote areas of Sikkim.
- Presentation and archival of films and film related materials.
- Recognition and felicitation of those who are the torch bearers of the industry. Oversee general welfare of the local film fraternity.
- Creation of Film Facilitation Office (FFO).

POLICY INTERVENTION:

1. DESTINATION MARKETING AND BRANDING OF SIKKIM AS A PREFERRED FILM SHOOTING DESTINATION

To promote Sikkim as a leading destination for shooting and production of feature and non-feature films and television shows, the Sikkim Film Promotion Board, hereinafter referred to as the Board will attempt participation in fairs, festivals and various film associations and chambers of films nationally and internationally in co-ordination with the Department of Tourism & Civil Aviation which will further enhance and develop cinematic tourism.

2. IDENTIFICATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF SHOOTING LOCALES

The State Government will identify, catalogue and develop promising potential shooting locations, which have aesthetic and cinematic appeal. These locations will be developed in synergy with the Tourism Department and private investors as well as the stakeholders.

3. FILM FACILITATION OFFICE (FFO)/SINGLE WINDOW SYSTEM

All permits/permissions and paperwork will be handled by Film Facilitation Office set up under the Board, thereby eliminating paperwork and delivering a prompt and valid authorization through the single window system. Online services will also be made available to expedite the process. Permission to shoot shall also include Defence clearance.

4. CREATION OF INFRASTRUCTURE FOR FILM SHOOTING AND PRODUCTION

The Government of Sikkim will promote and facilitate the creation of film infrastructure both through private and joint venture. The infrastructure required towards supporting and developing the film sector can be classified as below:

I) **FILM AND TV INSTITUTES AND EXPANSION OF THEIR SCOPE** - A dedicated institution on Film and Television has been envisioned by the Government of Sikkim where long- term and short-term courses on film making and development of on-set skills will be imparted. Also, workshops would be regularly conducted for providing training through Creative Labs.

II) **SETTING UP OF SIKKIM ECO HERITAGE FILM VILLAGE**-The State Government shall aim towards creating and building a robust and modern Film Village in Sikkim which would serve as a complete Film Production Facility. The State Government shall support setting up of

Film and TV Studios in Sikkim along with production and post-production facilities to incentivise shooting and making of films in the State through Central aid or Private Capital Investment. The State Government will strive to set up such studios and sets in accordance with an appropriate business firm on PPP mode or any other appropriate business model so that the entire required infrastructure is available at one single centre. The State Government will also support the setting up of additional/secondary infrastructure. Technical Details of the State Government's support towards setting up of Film City attached in **Annexure 1**.

III) **STUDIO AND LABS**-The State Government shall create labs in consultation with National Film Development Corporation including Screen Writer's Lab, Director's Lab, Producer's Lab and an Animation Lab to create a Media and Entertainment Hub.

IV) **AUDITION HALL**- The State Government shall establish an audition hall or identify dedicated audition hall.

5. USE OF EXISTING INFRASTRUCTURE LIKE THE AIRPORT AND OTHER PUBLIC SPACES

The Government of Sikkim shall facilitate easy accessibility to airstrips and air resources for outdoor shooting of films in the state through the mechanism of Single Window Clearance in coordination with Home and Tourism Department, Government of Sikkim. Shooting with drones shall also be officially facilitated in strict adherence to the guidelines set by the Government of India for drone shooting in restricted/ sensitive areas.

6. INFRASTRUCTURE FOR FILM SCREENING

CINEMA HALLS (REVIVAL AND UPGRADATION)- It is considered necessary to upgrade and modernize the facilities in the existing cinema halls to promote film viewing in cinema halls. Hence, the Government of Sikkim shall encourage cinema hall owners to create modern amenities and maintain the existing facilities through incentives and concessions provided by the State Government specially for promotion and screening of local and regional films. Provision of subsidized rates of halls under State Government will be provided for screening of local and regional films.

SETTING UP OF THEATRES (MINIPLEXES) AND ALTERNATE EXHIBITION FORUM - Setting up of screen theatres/community halls and alternate exhibition facilities like travelling talkies and special institutional screening forums (e.g., screening schedules through Gram Panchayats, local schools, etc.) in Sikkim, particularly in the rural areas, would help in the entertainment of rural masses at low cost; inculcate film watching culture and provide impetus to the production of more local films in the State.

With a view to facilitate this growth, the Government will make the following interventions-

- (a) Facilitating land, theatre acquisition and community hall renovation to encourage development of new miniplexes (capacity 70-100 max) as well as upgrading older theatres. This would be in synergy with the department concerned for ensuring provision for speedy relevant clearances.
- (b) Encourage miniplexes in cities-near bus stands, popular shopping areas, culture centres etc., for natural traction of audiences and also to ensure profitability.
- (c) Promotional support: As far as possible, all Government controlled/owned spaces like state tourist complexes, government office lobbies, railway station and bus stands etc-will have display spaces for promoting film culture. Local and regional films shall also be dominantly featured in all these display platforms.

- (d) Content for miniplexes could include Sikkimese National Award-winning films including Children's and Educational Films.
- (e) It would be desirable for the miniplexes to have a showcase/display/sale area for local arts and crafts, local cinema scheduling.

7. RESTORATION AND PRESERVATION OF FILMS

The State Government will create a human resource data base of the Film Industry in Sikkim through the Board. Local and independent filmmakers and producers will be encouraged to deposit a copy of their film and publicity materials with the archives. Archives will ensure proper storage, cataloguing and maintenance of the films. Archival of films will be done by the Board. Offline data bank, digital data backup system and long-term digital space rental facility will be available.

8. ROBUST ONLINE AND OFFLINE PRESENCE

The State Government, in order to ensure success in the Film Sector will give primary importance to the dissemination of information so that the investors will be able to make informed decisions. The State government will provide a vibrant and vigorous website catering to all the information with regards to film related sectors such as directory of artists, cast and crew, equipment etc.

9. FAMILIARISATION TRIPS

The State Government shall promote and facilitate, in assistance with film makers from the State, FAM trips (familiarisation trips) for potential investors, film-makers, policy makers, film professionals and other stakeholders to encourage investments and incentives in this sector.

10. BRAND AMBASSADOR

The State Government shall also, in consultation with the Board, contact luminaries of the Film Industry to act as Brand Ambassadors for popularising the Film Tourism in Sikkim through all possible forms of publicity.

11. CHECKING OF VIDEO PIRACY AND COPYRIGHT MATTERS

The State will monitor and report instances of video piracy and illegal exhibition of certified and quality films. Establishment of Central Board of Film Certification Office in the State of Sikkim.

12. FILM FESTIVAL

(i) LOCAL/ REGIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

Organise a Local Film Festival titled "Small Town Film Festival" in order to provide a platform, encourage and promote films made by local film makers. This one-day film festival shall be conducted by the Board wherein the locals and regional films shall be screened and reviewed. The best films can be screened at the annual Global Film Festival and from the same pool of film makers, entries for different categories of Awards mentioned under the Global Film Festival can also be selected.

(ii) SIKKIM GLOBAL FILM FESTIVAL

The State Government will make the Film Festival an annual calendar event. The Board under the aegis of DIPR will organize the event in coordination with other line Departments.

The Film Festival will also give out awards to encourage production of films of aesthetic and technical excellence and social relevance. Sikkimese film makers /artistes /technicians, including those who win awards at National and International film forums will be felicitated.

SIKKIM GLOBAL FILM FESTIVAL AWARDS WILL INCLUDE:

1. **STATE AWARD TO SIKKIMESE FILM MAKERS AND ARTISTES WHO HAVE WON NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL ACCOLADES**
2. **CHIEF MINISTER'S AWARD FOR PRODUCTION HOUSE:** This award will be given to the Production Houses promoting the state of Sikkim as a top-notch film shooting destination through their work. However, they will not be re-eligible for a term of three years after receiving the award
3. **SPECIAL CATEGORY FILM AWARDS.**
 - i) **"FIRST TIME SIKKIMESE FILM DIRECTOR" AWARD:** This award will be given to an aspiring film maker of Sikkim in a bid to encourage and promote the art and the artists of the field of film making..
 - ii) **BEST FILM PROMOTING SIKKIM AS A FILM SHOOTING DESTINATION AWARD:** This award will be given to the Sikkimese film makers who showcase the outstanding aspects of the state of Sikkim making it a preferred film shooting destination through their films.
 - iii) **AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE FOR SIKKIMESE/REGIONAL FILMS:** This award shall be given to the Sikkimese Films in recognition of their excellence in the craft of filmmaking.

NOTE- A Committee constituted for the purpose shall select the Awardees.

13. AUDIENCE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES

The Government of Sikkim will promote organizations to ensure that the Sikkimese Cinema reaches the masses. Film Festivals would provide a platform to the people of the State to experience reputed films. Films supported by the Board would be widely publicised. In exceptional cases, the Board can provide assistance in marketing and distribution to the deserving films and may even buy the rights. Special emphasis and support to be presented by the Board so that deserving films gets the much-needed boost and also the vision of the State Government towards recognising and uplifting talents stand out. Local and regional cinema shall be majorly promoted at the local, national and global level.

Introduction of Film and its related sectors as a chapter or a vocational subject in the schools of Sikkim so that we can create awareness and knowledge on the subject of films in the youth and more importantly help facilitate the evolution/burgeoning of dormant talent and interest that children may have for film making and its related sectors.

14. INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION AND EXCHANGE PROGRAMME

One special film will be commissioned annually under the program in which the cast & crew will consist of 50% Sikkimese & 50% national & global professionals. Such projects will help local professionals connect and collaborate with professionals from around the world and give them exposure and experience of working in different countries and film industries. Since our aim is not only to augment the film industry and produce films but also to develop a perfect environment for the National and International makers to film in Sikkim, this initiative would increase the chances of Sikkimese professionals getting hired. Therefore, the INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION AND EXCHANGE PROGRAMME will be an important annual program.

15. ASSISTANCE

Assistance will be provided by the board to Film makers in the following areas:

(a) Pre-Production Support:

Permissions, Location Scouting, Audition Facilities, Meeting/Conference Halls, and other pre-production support facilities within the state of Sikkim. Details attached in ANNEXURE-2.

(b) Production Support:

Permissions, Facilitation on Conveyance, Lodging Facilities, Police Assistance, Special Medical Assistance/ Ambulance on payment, Emergency Assistance in the event of natural disaster etc. Availability of Creative Assistants, Line Producers, local artists, spot-boys, specialised Labour, etc within the state of Sikkim. Film equipment and the best technical support system will be provided with rental facility. All the facilities mentioned in ANNEXURE-3.

FINANCIAL INCENTIVE AND ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT:

To encourage film/documentary/music video makers and film producers in Sikkim and for those coming nationally and from across the world, general administrative and financial support will be provided on fulfilment of the following criteria.

CRITERIA

- (a) The filmmakers must submit a copy of their previous work (short films, feature and non-feature films) to the Board for review.
- (b) Prior to production, the script of the film will invariably have to be approved by the Board. The approval of the script is not to be taken as sanction of the financial assistance.
- (c) On completion, the Board will evaluate the film on various technical parameters.
- (d) Production houses have to be empanelled with DIPR.
- (e) 50% of the local artistes and crew are to be used in the film.
- (f) 75% out of the total shooting days of the film must have been shot in Sikkim.
- (g) A script of the film has to be submitted to the Board to examine that the films do not carry any content that could misguide the audience or defame the image of the State.
- (h) Preference will be given to those production houses and actors who have won awards at National and International level. .
- (i) The film has to be certified by the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC).

FINANCIAL GRANT up to 10% of the total budget of film as subsidy (back ended) for films with a budget of up to Rs.5 Crores and Rs. 1 Crore subsidy for films with a budget from 5-10 Crores would be given.

2. **SPECIAL INCENTIVE** will be given to Films having budget of Rs. 20 Crores and above as determined by the State Government on recommendation of the Board, subject to fulfilment of the above mentioned criteria.

ADDITIONAL SUPPORT:

- i) Empanelled Production Houses will be entitled to discounted entry in programs and events related to learning and Skill-development in their respective fields.

- ii) Local Filmmakers: Support on hiring of filming equipment from the Board.
- iii) The Board will select local films for submitting entries in the National & International Film Festivals. The awardees will be provided with logistic support and assistance during the festival.

16. SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS DURING FILM SHOOTING

The State Government will ensure absolute security and crowd control facilities during film shoots. Appropriate security and safety arrangement would be made to enable the film makers to complete shooting. The security team will be especially trained/oriented for film shoots.

17. LIAISON OFFICER

DIPR shall appoint one Liaison Officer for Film Facilitation Office who shall co-ordinate exclusively with the Nodal Officers from the concerned departments and the Film crew.

18. SIKKIM FILM PROMOTION BOARD

- The paramount objective of the Board will be to fulfil the aspiration of the State Government towards creating a thriving film industry in the State. The Board will create an environment that would project Sikkim as a preferred destination for films in the country and globally.
- Upgradation and creation of requisite infrastructure for development of films, thereby fostering growth and long term development of the Film Sector in Sikkim.
- Promote brand Sikkim through proper holistic strategies and projection through films shot in the State.
- Facilitate the overall growth of the Film Sector in Sikkim while creating business and local employment opportunities in film making and support it thoroughly.
- Take deliberations and measures to promote Film Tourism in the State of Sikkim.
- Identify and develop locations in the State ideal for film shooting and create an inventory of readily available relevant facilities of filmmaking in those locations while also keeping in mind the area restrictions and protections that come with the State's status of being a biodiversity hotspot and a protected area due to its natural and cultural distinctions.
- Formulate exemptions and provide financial incentives for films shot in the State.
- Strategize the development of film industry in the State so that it creates a chain of business and investment opportunities.
- The Board to have separate account. The members shall meet periodically and authorise expenditure from the budget account as and when required.

MEMBERSHIP

- (a) The Board will be a high powered committee headed by a Chairperson nominated by the State Government and shall comprise, besides senior officers from Information and Public Relations Department, Government of Sikkim, eminent film personalities and other related sectors of the State. The senior officer of Information and Public Relations Department will be the Convener of the Board.

(b) Other Members-

- Secretary of Information and Public Relations.
- Director of Information and Public Relations Department.
- Renowned film makers, film professionals, artistes and other departmental officials.

19. IMPLEMENTATION OF POLICY

The Board will be the single point of contact for supporting the development of a thriving film ecosystem in Sikkim and shall oversee the implementation of the Sikkim Film Policy.

20. POLICY PERIOD

The Sikkim Film Policy has been framed and will be implemented initially for a period of five (5) years.

21. DISPUTE REDRESSAL MECHANISM

All disputes arising under the terms and conditions of the Sikkim Film Policy shall strictly be subject to the jurisdiction of the State of Sikkim only.

22. This policy is in supersession of the Sikkim Film Policy 2020

By order and in the name of Governor.

**Secretary to the Government of Sikkim
Information and Public Relations Department
File No.GOS/890/IPR/Film/18-19
SUB: Sikkim Film Policy.**

(FILM CITY) COMPLETE FILM PRODUCTION FACILITY

- Administration centre.
- Multi-class food & accommodation facilities.
- Helipad.
- Permanent Sikkimese traditional & tribal sets
- Sound Stages.
- Chroma dome
- Foley Stage/studio.
- Arrangement rooms.
- Pre-Recording session rooms.
- Recording studios.
- Premix theatres.
- Mixing theatre.
- Editing studios.
- DI & Colouring suits.
- VFX & Animation Suits.
- Live Events Theatre.
- Film Exhibition Theatre.
- Equipment storage spaces.
- Security & Firefighting service.
- Self-sustaining, eco-friendly, renewable energy harvest systems. (Micro Hydel, Solar & Wind Power Generation System).

ANNEXURE 2

PRE-PRODUCTION

- CAST- Leads, Supporting Actors, Stunts
- CREW-
- Producer,
- Associate Producer
- Executive producer
- Co-producer,
- Director,
- Associate director
- Assistant directors,
- Art director,
- Director of photography,
- Cinematographer,
- Gaffer,
- Sync Sound engineer,
- Costumes,
- Make-up,
- Editor,
- Sound designer,
- Background scorer,
- Colourist (DI artist),
- VFX artists,
- AFX artists,

ASSISTANCE

PRODUCTION EQUIPMENT & TECHNICAL SUPPORT SYSTEM.

- Cameras, lenses & accessories.
- Grip.
- Lighting.
- Power Generators.
- Motion Control System.
- Drones.
- RC Jibs.
- Cable Cams.
- Camera Stabilisation System.
- Sync Sound Gears.
- Licensed long range radio system (Walkies)
- Multi-purpose portable stations (Tents)
- Vanity Vans.
- Grip vans.
- Lighting vans.
- Camera vans.
- Wardrobe vans.
- Food trucks.
- Portable toilets.

